

Introduced by

1 A BILL for an Act to amend and reenact sections 25-06-02, 25-06-04, and 25-06-09 of the North  
2 Dakota Century Code, relating to the duties of the school for the blind, qualifications for  
3 admission, and duty to report blind persons; and to repeal section 25-06-07 of the North Dakota  
4 Century Code, relating to instruction at the school for the blind.

5 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:**

6 **SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Section 25-06-02 of the 1999 Supplement to the North  
7 Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

8 **25-06-02. ~~Object~~ Blind person defined - Duties and responsibilities of school for**  
9 **the blind.** For purposes of this chapter, a blind person is an individual who is totally blind or  
10 whose central visual acuity does not exceed twenty/two hundred in the better eye with  
11 corrective lenses, or the widest diameter of the visual field is no greater than twenty degrees;  
12 and a visually impaired person is an individual with an impairment in vision which, even with  
13 correction, adversely affects the individual's functional ability. The school for the blind is a  
14 statewide resource and referral center for ~~the provision of services to all~~ residents of this state;  
15 ~~including vision specific consultations, evaluations, information, and training and loans of~~  
16 ~~adaptive devices, equipment, and materials. It shall receive and educate blind and partially~~  
17 ~~blind children who are residents of this state and who, because of this handicap, are not able to~~  
18 ~~receive an appropriate education in the public schools of this state.~~ who are blind or visually  
19 impaired. The school for the blind shall:

- 20 1. Collect and distribute information on vision service programs available in the state.
- 21 2. Assist residents to access appropriate vision services.
- 22 3. Provide vision services, including vision-specific consultations, evaluations,
- 23 information, training, and loans of adaptive devices, equipment, and materials.

4. Seek and accept funding available from the vocational rehabilitation division of the department of human services for the vision services provided to eligible individuals who are blind or visually impaired.
5. Receive and educate blind or visually impaired residents of this state who, because of being blind or visually impaired, are not able to receive an appropriate education in the public schools of this state.
6. Provide instruction in general education subjects and instruction in vision-specific subjects, including orientation, mobility, braille, braille music, daily living skills, technology, vocational training, and recreation.

**SECTION 2. AMENDMENT.** Section 25-06-04 of the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

**25-06-04. Qualifications for admission to school for the blind - Residents of state entitled to free education.** Applicants for admission to the school for the blind must be blind or ~~partially blind~~ visually impaired and unable to make suitable progress in the public schools of the state. The superintendent of the school for the blind, with the approval of the superintendent of public instruction, may determine the age required for admission. The superintendent of the school for the blind shall furnish application blanks upon request, and no person may be admitted to the institution until the application giving such information as the superintendent of public instruction requires has been returned to and approved by the superintendent of the school for the blind. An applicant admitted to the school for the blind must be furnished transportation by the school as provided in the student's individualized education program at the most economical rate possible, and yet meet the student's needs. Each such applicant who is a resident of this state and who, because of blindness and other ~~handicaps~~ disabilities is unable to receive an education in the public schools, is entitled to receive an education in the school for the blind at the expense of the state.

**SECTION 3. AMENDMENT.** Section 25-06-09 of the 1999 Supplement to the North Dakota Century Code is amended and reenacted as follows:

**25-06-09. Blind persons - Duty to report.** ~~It is the duty of every~~ Every public school superintendent, physician, ophthalmologist, oculist, optometrist, nurse, clinic, hospital, and social and welfare agency in this state ~~to~~ shall report in writing to the superintendent of the North Dakota school for the blind the name, age, and residence of ~~persons~~ any individual under

1 the age of twenty-one years who ~~are~~ is blind ~~within the definition of blindness as set forth, as~~  
2 ~~defined in this section chapter, and in such cases to furnish such~~ additional pertinent  
3 information as requested by the superintendent of the North Dakota school for the blind ~~may~~  
4 ~~request~~. All reports must be forwarded to the superintendent of the school for the blind within  
5 thirty days after diagnosis, examination, or discovery. ~~For the purposes of this chapter, a blind~~  
6 ~~person is defined as one who is totally blind or whose central visual acuity does not exceed~~  
7 ~~twenty-two hundred in the better eye with corrective lenses, or the widest diameter of the visual~~  
8 ~~field is no greater than twenty degrees.~~

9       **SECTION 4. REPEAL.** Section 25-06-07 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
10 repealed.